

(i) [providing] provide [audio and/or video] AV signal[s] reproduction at [the] a workstation of another of [said] the participants, or

(ii) [receiving] receive video images [and/or] and spoken audio of another participant[.] and;

(b) a first network, interconnecting the workstations, over which a data conference can be conducted, the data conference managed by the teleconferencing manager.

3. (Once Amended) A [teleconferencing system for conducting a teleconference among a plurality of participants having workstations with associated monitors for displaying visual images, and with associated AV capture and reproduction capabilities for capturing and reproducing video images and spoken audio of said participants, said workstations being interconnected by a first network, said network providing a data path for carrying digital data signals among said workstations, the] teleconferencing system, comprising:

(a) [a] data conference capture tools [for] capable of capturing data generated at a workstation of a preparing participant;

(b) annotation tools [for] capable of annotating [said] the captured data; and

(c) a multimedia mail system [for preparing and storing] configured to prepare and store, as a multimedia mail message, [said] the captured and annotated data, and [for forwarding] configured to forward [said] the multimedia mail message to a receiving participant, [whereby said] such that the multimedia mail message can be received at [any one of at least three collaborative venues being] a venue selected from the group consisting of:

(i) in real time at a location removed from [said] the preparing participant;

(ii) at a different time at the same location as [said] the message was prepared;

[or] and

(iii) at a different time at a location removed from [said] the preparing participant.

4. (Once Amended) The teleconferencing system of [claim] Claim 3, wherein [said] the multimedia mail system is in communication with a graphical animations originator device which can generate, save and replay animated graphical images to be included in [a] the

multimedia mail message.

5. (Once Amended) A [teleconferencing system for conducting a teleconference among a plurality of participants having workstations with associated monitors for displaying visual images, and with associated AV capture and reproduction capabilities for capturing and reproducing video images and spoken audio of said participants, said workstations being interconnected by a first network, said network providing a data path for carrying digital data signals among said workstations, the] teleconferencing system, comprising:

(a) AV reproduction capabilities configured to reproduce video images and spoken audio of the participants;

([a]b) [an] AV conference capture tools [for] capable of capturing audio and video generated, during a videoconference, at the workstation of a preparing participant; and

([b]c) a multimedia mail system [for preparing and storing] configured to prepare and store, as a multimedia mail message, [said] the captured video and audio, and [for forwarding] configured to forward [said] the multimedia mail message to a receiving participant, whereby [said] the multimedia mail message can be received at [any one of at least three collaborative venues being] a venue selected from the group consisting of:

- (i) in real time at a location removed from [said] the preparing participant;
- (ii) at a different time at the same location as [said] the message was prepared;
- [or] and
- (iii) at a different time at a location removed from [said] the preparing participant.

6. (Once Amended) The teleconferencing system of [claim] Claim 5, wherein the captured video images and audio includes video images and spoken audio directly associated with [said] the preparing participant and at least one other [of] video [images] image and spoken audio not directly associated with [said] the preparing participant.

7. (Once Amended) The teleconferencing system [according to claim] of Claim 5, further comprising:

(a) a message marker [for] capable of defining a marked portion of [a] the multimedia mail message₁; and
 wherein [said] the marked portion can be selectively displayed by [said] the receiving participant when [said] the multimedia mail message is reproduced.

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 8. (Once Amended) The teleconferencing system [according to] of [claim] Claim 7, further comprising a tag searcher [for searching] configured to search for a defined tag₁ [whereby said] such that the portion of [said] the message can be selectively displayed.

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 9. (Once Amended) The teleconferencing system [according to] of [claim] Claim 8, wherein [said] the tag searcher can search a plurality of multimedia mail messages to locate [said] the defined tag.

10. (Once Amended) The teleconferencing system of [claim] Claim 5, further comprising:

- (a) a data conference manager [for managing] configured to manage a data conference during which data [are] is shared among a plurality of [said] the participants and displayed on [the] monitors [of] included at their respective workstations; and
- (b) a multimedia conference recorder [for] capable of synchronizing and recording both the video image and spoken audio of [said] the participants during [said] the videoconference and the data shared during [said] the data conference.

11. (Once Amended) The teleconferencing system of [claim] Claim 10, further comprising:

- (a) capture tools [for] capable of capturing [said] the shared data [to be shared]; and
- (b) annotation tools [for] capable of annotating [said] the shared data during [a] the data conference,

wherein [said] the multimedia conference recorder is operable to synchronize the playback of [said] the annotated data conference recordings with [said] the videoconference recordings.

12. (Once Amended) The teleconferencing system of [claim] Claim 10, wherein the multimedia mail system includes the multimedia conference recorder and a multimedia document storage and display mechanism [for] such that [storing] a multimedia document [such that the multimedia document] can be stored by a preparing participant and subsequently retrieved by [a] the preparing participant or other participant.

13. (Once Amended) The teleconferencing system of [claim] Claim 12, wherein information can be transferred between the multimedia mail system, the multimedia conference recorder and the multimedia document storage.

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14. (Once Amended) The teleconferencing system of [claim] Claim 10, further comprising:
(a) an AV file system [for storing and retrieving] configured to store and retrieve both the video image and spoken audio of [said] the preparing participant and [said] the recorded video image and spoken audio.

15. (Once Amended) The teleconferencing system of [claim] Claim 5, further comprising:
(a) a multimedia mail depository associated with the receiving participant and being operable to receive and store multimedia mail messages under direction of the preparing participant.

16. (Once Amended) The teleconferencing system of [claim] Claim 15, wherein the mail depository is operable, by the preparing [the] participant, to receive mail messages having at least one component selected from the group consisting of audio, video and data components.

17. (Once Amended) A [teleconferencing system] for conducting a teleconference among a plurality of participants having workstations with associated monitors for displaying visual images, and with associated AV capture and reproduction capabilities for capturing and reproducing video images and spoken audio of said participants, said workstations being interconnected by a first network, said network providing a data path for carrying digital data

signals among said workstations, the] teleconferencing system, comprising:

- (a) a data conference manager [for managing] configured to manage a data conference during which data [are] is shared among a plurality of [said] the participants having workstations, and during which the data is displayed on [the] monitors [of] included at [their respective] each participants' workstation [workstations];
- (b) an AV path [for carrying] configured to carry AV signals among [said] the workstations, [said] the AV signals representing video images [and/or] and spoken audio of [said] the participants;
- (c) an AV conference manager [for managing] configured to manage a videoconference during which the video image and spoken audio of one of [said] the participants is reproduced at the workstation of another of [said] the participants; and
- (d) a multimedia mail system [for storing] configured to store, as a multimedia mail message, at least one of the signals selected from the group consisting of data, [and/or AV] audio and video signals generated at the workstation of a preparing participant, during [said] the [teleconference] videoconference and the data conference, and, [for] capable of forwarding [said] the multimedia mail message to a receiving participant.

18. (Once Amended) A [teleconferencing system for conducting a teleconference among a plurality of participants having workstations with associated monitors for displaying visual images, and with associated AV capture and reproduction capabilities for capturing and reproducing video images and spoken audio of said participants, said workstations being interconnected by a first network, said network providing a data path for carrying digital data signals among said workstations, the] teleconferencing system, comprising:

- (a) an AV path [for carrying] configured to carry AV signals among [said] a plurality of workstations, [said] the AV signals representing video images [and/or] and spoken audio of [said] a corresponding plurality of participants;
- (b) an AV conference manager [for managing] configured to manage a videoconference during which the video image and spoken audio of one of [said] the participants can be reproduced [at] by a monitor in communication with the workstation of another of [said] the

participants; [and, at least one of]

(c) a data conference manager configured to manage a data conference during which data is shared among the participants and reproduced by the monitors of their respective workstations; and, at least one of

~~[(c)] (d) a multimedia mail system [for storing] configured to store, as a multimedia mail message, at least one of the signals selected from the group consisting of [AV and/or] video, audio and data signals generated at the workstation of a preparing participant, during the videoconference and data conference, and, [for] capable of forwarding [said] the multimedia mail message to a receiving participant; or~~

~~a multimedia conference recorder [for] capable of recording the [AV and/or] video, audio and data signals.~~

19. (Once Amended) The teleconferencing system of [claim] Claim 18, further comprising:

(a) an AV storage server [for] capable of storing AV signals prepared by [said] the multimedia mail system or recorded by [said] the multimedia conference recorder, wherein

(i) [said] the AV signals carried from [said] the workstations to [said] the AV storage server can be either analog or digital signals;

(ii) [said] the AV signals carried from [said] the AV storage server to [said] the workstations can be either analog or digital signals; and

(iii) [said] AV signals can be stored in [said] the AV storage server either in analog or digital formats.

20. (Once Amended) A method of conducting a teleconference, [among a plurality of participants having workstations with associated monitors for displaying visual images, and with associated AV capture and reproduction capabilities for capturing and reproducing video images and spoken audio of said participants, said workstations being interconnected by a first network, said network providing a data path for carrying digital data signals among said workstations, the method] comprising the steps of:

(a) capturing data generated at a workstation of a preparing participant;

- (b) annotating [said] the captured data;
- (c) preparing and storing, as a multimedia mail message, [said] the captured and annotated data; and
- (d) forwarding [said] the multimedia mail message for receipt, by a receiving participant, at any one of the [at least three collaborative] venues [being] selected from the group consisting of
- (i) in real time at a location removed from [said] the preparing participant;
 - (ii) at a different time at the same location as [said] the message was prepared; [or] and
 - (iii) at a different time at a location removed from [said] the preparing participant.

21. (Once Amended) The method of [claim] Claim 20, further comprising the steps of generating, saving and replaying animated graphical images included in a multimedia mail message.

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22. (Once Amended) A method for conducting a teleconference, [among a plurality of participants having workstations with associated monitors for displaying visual images, and with associated AV capture and reproduction capabilities for capturing and reproducing video images and spoken audio of said participants, said workstations being interconnected by a first network, said network providing a data path for carrying digital data signals among said workstations, the method] comprising the steps of:

- (a) capturing audio and video generated, during a videoconference, at the workstation of a preparing participant;
- (b) preparing and storing, as a multimedia mail message, [said] the captured video and audio; and
- (c) forwarding [said] the multimedia mail message for receipt, by a receiving participant, at any one of the [at least three collaborative] venues [being] selected from the group consisting of
- (i) in real time at a location removed from [said] the preparing participant;

- (ii) at a different time at the same location as [said] the message was prepared;
[or] and
- (iii) at a different time at a location removed from [said] the preparing participant.

² 23. (Once Amended) The method of [claim] Claim ¹ 22, further comprising the steps of

- (a) defining a marked portion of a multimedia mail message; and
- (b) selectively displaying the marked portion when [said] the multimedia mail message is reproduced.

³ 24. (Once Amended) The method of [claim] Claim ² 23, further comprising the steps of:

- (a) searching for a defined tag; and
- (b) selectively displaying [said] the portion of [said] the message.

25. (Once Amended) The method of [claim] Claim 22, further comprising the steps of:

- (a) managing a data conference during which data [are] is shared among a plurality of [said] the participants having workstations including monitors configured to reproduce the shared data [and displayed on the monitors of their respective workstations];
- (b) synchronizing both the video image and spoken audio of [said] the participants during [said] the videoconference and the data shared during [said] the data conference; and
- (c) recording the synchronized video, audio and data.

26. (Once Amended) The method of [claim] Claim 25, further comprising the steps of:

- (a) capturing [said] the data to be shared; and
- (b) annotating [said] the shared data during [a] the data conference.

27. (Once Amended) The method of [claim] Claim 25, further comprising the step of [for] storing a multimedia document such that the multimedia document can be retrieved by a participant.

28. (Once Amended) A method of conducting a teleconference, [among a plurality of participants having workstations with associated monitors for displaying visual images, and with associated AV capture and reproduction capabilities for capturing and reproducing video images and spoken audio of said participants, said workstations being interconnected by a first network, said network providing a data path for carrying digital data signals among said workstations, the method] comprising the steps of:

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- (a) carrying AV signals among [said] the workstations, [said] the AV signals representing video images [and/or] and spoken audio of [said] the participants;
 - (b) managing a videoconference during which the video image and spoken audio of one of [said] the participants can be reproduced at the workstation of another of [said] the participants; [and]
 - (c) managing a data conference, during which data are shared among the plurality of participants and displayed on their respective workstations; and

[(c)] (d) at least one of the steps from the group consisting of

- (i) storing, as a multimedia mail message, AV signals generated at the workstation of a preparing participant, and [for] forwarding [said] the multimedia mail message to a receiving participant; [and]
- (ii) recording the AV signals representing the video images and spoken audio of [said] the participants during [said] the videoconference; and
- (iii) storing, as a multimedia mail message, data [and/or] and AV signals generated at the workstation of a preparing participant, during [said teleconference] the videoconference and the data conference and [for] forwarding [said] the multimedia mail message to a receiving participant.

Add the following claims:

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29. A teleconferencing system, comprising:

- (a) a teleconferencing manager, configured to manage a videoconference and dataconference among a plurality of participants, each participant having a workstation;

(b) a multimedia server, in communication with the teleconferencing manager, configured to transfer communication data, generated at the workstation of at least one preparing participant, to at least one other receiving participant during the videoconference and data conference; and

(c) a storage medium, in communication with the multimedia server, configured to receive and store the communication data.

30. The teleconferencing system of Claim 29, wherein the communication data comprises audio and video signals representing the voices and images of one or more of the participants during the videoconference and data signals representing data shared among the participants during the data conference.

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31. The teleconferencing system of Claim 30, wherein the communication data to be stored is one or more of the signals selected from the group consisting of audio, video and data signals.

32. The teleconferencing system of Claim 31, further comprising:

(a) AV capture tools at each workstation location configured to capture the image and voice of the associated participant during the videoconference;

(b) data capture tools at each workstation configured to capture data shared during the data conference; and

(c) data annotation tools at each workstation that permit the associated participant to annotate the data shared during the data conference.

33. The teleconferencing system of Claim 32, wherein the AV capture tools, data capture tools and data annotation tools can be used to generate a multimedia document capable of being stored, in real time, on the storage medium.